

1981 11 936

YONGE STREET AND DUNDAS STREET.

THE MEN AFTER WHOM THEY WERE NAMED.

A PAPER FROM THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE
AND HISTORY.

BY
HENRY SCADDING, D.D.,
CANON OF ST. JAMES', TORONTO.

TORONTO:
COPP, CLARK & CO., PRINTERS, 67 & 69 COLBORNE STREET.
1878.

FC 3097

.67

S2

111740



YONGE STREET AND DUNDAS STREET.

THE MEN AFTER WHOM THEY WERE NAMED.*

When it has happened that a town, city or region has received a name intended to be an enduring memorial of a particular personage, it is natural to suppose that some interest in his history and character will there be felt. In the many places, for example, which have been, or are sure to be, called *Livingstone*, we may expect that hereafter a special acquaintance with the story of the great explorer and missionary will be kept up. But names quickly become familiar and trite on the lips of men; and unless now and then attention be directed to their significance, they soon cease to be much more than mere sounds.

The inhabitants of Lorraine probably seldom give much thought to the Lothaire, of whose realm, *Lotharii regnum*, their province is the representative. Few citizens of Bolivia waste time in recalling Bolivar. To the Astorians, Astoria speaks faintly now of John Jacob Astor; and Aspinwall, to its occupants, has by this time lost the personal allusion implied in the word. Ismailia, on the Upper Nile, may be a momentary exception. That is altogether too fresh a creation. Who Ismail, the living Khedive, is, must be sufficiently well known at present to the people there.

Nevertheless, I suppose, even where the notability commemorated has almost wholly departed out of the public mind, a recurrence to the story really wrapped up in the name of a given place cannot be unwelcome.

Sir Thomas Browne, in his "Urn-burial," says: "To be content that times to come should only know there was such a man, without

* Read before the Canadian Institute.

caring whether they knew more of him, was a frigid ambition in Cardan. For who careth," he asks, "to subsist like Hippocrates' patients, or Achilles' horses in Homer, under naked nominations, without deserts and noble acts, which are the balsam of our memories, the entelechia and soul of our subsistences?"

And even so in respect of local names amongst us, borrowed from worthies of a former day—it may be taken for granted that thoughtful persons will not wish to rest content with "naked nominations;" but, on the contrary, will desire to become familiar with the "entelechia," as Sir Thomas Browne chooses learnedly to express himself—the true motive and "soul of their subsistences."

I accordingly proceed to summon up, so far as I may, the shades of two partially forgotten personages, commemorated and honoured in the style and title of two great thoroughfares familiar to Toronto people and Western Canadians generally—Yonge Street and Dundas Street. I refer to Sir George Yonge and the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, from whom those two well-known main-roads of the Province of Ontario respectively have their appellations.

I am assisted in my attempt to revive the forms of these two men of mark in a former generation, by the possession of an engraved portrait of each of them. That of Sir George Yonge is from a painting by Mather Brown, engraved by E. Scott, "engraver to the Duke of York and Prince Edward." It shows a full, frank, open, English countenance, smoothly shaven, with pleasant intelligent eyes; the mouth rather large, but expressive; the chin double; the hair natural and abundant, but white with powder. The inscription below is: "The Right Honourable Sir George Yonge, Bart., Secretary at War, Knight of the Bath, One of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, F.R.S., F.A.S., &c., M.P."

I.—SIR GEORGE YONGE.

Sir George Yonge was the chief representative of an ancient Devonshire family. He was born in 1732, and sat in Parliament for the borough of Honiton from 1754 to 1796. His father, the fourth baronet, Sir William Yonge, sat for the same place before him. Sir George was Secretary at War from 1782 to 1794, when he was succeeded by William Windham. He also held the offices of Vice-Treasurer for Ireland, and Master of the Mint. In 1797 he



SIR GEORGE YONGE, BART. (1732-1812).

AFTER WHOM YONGE STREET, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, WAS NAMED.



became Governor and Commander-in-Chief at the Cape of Good Hope, succeeding Lord Macartney there. He died at Hampton Court, September 26, 1812, æt. 80.

In the debates taking place in the House of Commons during the movement in the American Colonies which resulted in their independence, Sir George Yonge took a favourable view of the intentions and wishes of the colonists. Thus, in reply to Lord North, when some resolutions were being adopted on a petition from Nova Scotia setting forth the grievances of that loyal colony, and calling respectfully for a redress of them at the hands of the Imperial Parliament, Sir George Yonge said: "The sentiments of the petitioners were the sentiments of the General Congress: they alike acknowledge the Parliament of Great Britain as the supreme legislature; they alike own it their duty to contribute to the exigencies of the State; and they alike claim the right of giving and granting their own money." He added, "that it was in the power of the Ministry so to frame the bill as to give peace to all America, and he wished that were their inclination." Thus his remarks are summarized in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of December, 1776. As a specimen of Sir George's speeches at a later period, as Secretary at War, I give the summary of one preserved in the same periodical, which will show that he possessed tact and address. It relates to a proposed reduction in the Household Troops in 1787, to effect which, however, a larger sum than usual was to be asked for from the Parliament. The point was to make it clear that the extra charge on the revenue would result in a "saving to the public."

The reporter of the *Gentleman's Magazine* informs us that "The Secretary of War rose and said, that when he presented the army estimates, he had not included in them those of the King's household troops, because, as he had long since informed the House, His Majesty had at that time under consideration a plan of reform in those corps by which a considerable saving might be made to the public. It being impracticable, however, to digest this plan so soon as was expected, the intended reform could not take place till the 24th of June next. It was therefore necessary to vote the pay of all the household troops from Christmas Day last up to Midsummer. After the latter period, two troops of Life-Guards would be reduced, and replaced by the Grenadier Guards. The pay would be continued

to the officers until vacancies happened in other regiments; and to the private gentlemen, all of whom had purchased their situations, it would be but just to make compensation. It was the King's intention," Sir George proceeded to say, "that the two colonels of the troops to be reduced should receive £1,200 each a year for life; but a vacancy having lately happened in a regiment of dragoons by the death of General Carpenter, one of them would be appointed to fill it, and thus £1,200 a year would be saved to the nation; the other Colonel (the Duke of Northumberland), who was far above all pecuniary consideration, and had nothing so much at heart as the good of the service, had nobly requested that the annuity designed for him might make part of the saving that was to arise from the reform. He (Sir George) said that the public would save by the reform, at first, between £11,000 and £12,000 a year; but that when the officers shall be otherwise provided for, or drop off by death, the savings would then amount to £24,000 per annum. Such advantage, however, could not be expected this year; on the contrary, this year's expense would be much greater than that of any which preceded it; but then the cause of its increase would never occur again, particularly as he proposed to move that the sum of £28,000 should be allowed as a compensation to the private gentlemen for their purchase money." Sir George then concluded by moving for the full establishment of 715 men, officers included, of the four troops of Horse and Grenadier Guards up to Midsummer Day, after which one half of their establishment should be reduced; and for the several sums for compensation, which, on the whole, amounted to £79,543 5s. He remarked, before he sat down, that much had recently been said on the subject of patronage; but this reduction was a proof that the extension of patronage was not a favourite object with His Majesty, who proposed it, as it was clear he might have greatly lessened the expenses of the nation, and yet preserved the usual patronage, by reducing the privates and keeping up the establishment of the officers. It is then added: "The sums moved for were voted without debate, and the House was immediately resumed."

The nominally independent action of the King in relation to the Household Troops, and its open allegation by the Secretary, tell of an age when the Stuart ideas of kingly prerogative still, in theory, survived. The Duke of Northumberland spoken of, as intending

to forego the compensation about to be provided for the disbanded portion of the Body Guard, was the friend of our Mohawk Chief, Joseph Brant, whose acquaintance the Duke formed while serving as Lord Percy* in the Revolutionary War. An interesting letter from the Duke to Brant, in which the latter is addressed as "My dear Joseph," may be read in Stone's *Life of the Chief*, ii., 237. The letter is signed, "Your affectionate friend and brother, NORTHUMBERLAND, *Tho-rih-we-gé-ri*" (Mohawk for "The Evergreen Thicket").

I likewise give a specimen of a kind of communication with which, no doubt, Sir George Yonge was familiar in his capacity as Secretary at War. It will be of some special interest to us, as it comes from the hand of Lord Dorchester, at the time Governor-General of Canada, and it is dated at Quebec in 1790. It relates to an application which, it appears, Lord Dorchester had made for a commission for his son in the Guards, which application, it was thought, had been too long overlooked, while in the meantime the young man was rapidly growing, and exceeding the prescribed age for entering the army. Consequently Lord Dorchester asks for a cornetcy, temporarily, in some other regiment. Thus the letter reads (I transcribe from the autograph original): "SIR,—As I apprehend that many importunities have retarded the success of my application, about four years since, for an Ensigny in the Guards for my eldest son, Guy; and fearing lest the same reasons may still continue, while he is advancing considerably beyond the age judged necessary for entering into the military profession, I am to request you will take a proper opportunity of laying my petition before the King, that He would be graciously pleased (till such time as it may suit His Majesty's convenience and good pleasure to honour him with a commission in His Guards) to give him a Cornetcy in any of His Regiments in Great Britain. I am, Sir, with regard, your most obedient and most humble servant, DORCHESTER. Sir George Yonge, &c., &c., &c."

It may be that the intended reduction in the Household Troops, to which Sir George's speech referred in 1787, had something to do with the apparent neglect of Lord Dorchester's petition. The letter just given is, as I have said, dated in 1790, and the delay had been continuing for nearly four years. Guy, in fact, never obtained even the cornetcy. He died in 1793, aged 20. Neither did his next brother,

* Portraits of Earl Percy may be seen in Andrews' *History of the War*, i., 289; and Lossing's *Fieldbook*, ii. 613.

Thomas, who died in the following year at exactly the same age. But Christopher, the third son, born in 1775, was a lieutenant-colonel in the army, and was father of Arthur Henry, the second Baron. A memorial, I believe, of Guy Carleton, first Lord Dorchester, exists in Toronto in the name of one of its streets—Carleton Street.

Besides being a statesman and skilled in the theory of war, Sir George Yonge was what our grandfathers would style an "ingenious" person, a man of letters, and fond of science and archæology. The initials appended to his name under his portrait indicate that he was a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London. In volume nine of the *Archæologia*, or Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of London, I find a letter addressed by him to the secretary of the Society, on the subject of Roman Roads and Camps. Major Hayman Rooke, a Fellow of the Society, had discovered some Roman remains near Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham, and Sir George had suggested the probability of a Roman road or camp somewhere near by. The conjecture turned out to be correct, although before the search which was instituted the existence of such works there had not been suspected. In a letter to Sir George, Hayman Rooke justly observes that "the discovery proves your superior judgment in these matters." Sir George introduces Major Rooke's discoveries to the Society of Antiquaries thus (the document is addressed to the secretary of the Society): "SIR,—I transmit to you, at the request of my respectable and ingenious friend, Major Rooke, of Woodhouse, a small treatise which he has drawn up on some Roman Roads, Tumuli, Stations and Camps, which he has lately traced in the neighbourhood of Mansfield, and which have not hitherto been noticed." I cannot comply with his request that it might be transmitted to the Society, without explaining some particulars which gave rise to this treatise. When I first saw the account which he sent to the Society, of a Roman villa which he had discovered near Mansfield, I communicated to him some few sentiments of mine, on which I grounded an opinion, though I was quite unacquainted with the country, that this villa was probably the residence of some military Roman commander, and that there was probably some Roman camp or station, or some military Roman road, running near it. This did not by any means appear by his answer to be the case. And yet it still seemed to me to be improbable that it should be otherwise.

Having had an opportunity last year of waiting on Major Rooke and viewing this Roman villa, I was first struck with the appearance that Mansfield was probably a Roman station, from whence the villa was not above a mile distant, and indeed was in sight of it; and I thought I saw traces of some Roman roads running near it. On viewing the villa itself (which I found well worth the view), I saw a post still nearer it which had all the appearance of a Roman camp, from its form and other circumstances; but on inquiry from Major Rooke, he assured me there was no such thing there, nor Roman road in the neighbourhood. However, having communicated to him my sentiments grounded on observations which I had occasionally made on Roman roads, stations and camps, from whence I had formed a decided opinion that there was a uniform system of such roads, camps and stations throughout the kingdom, and all connected with each other as *diverticula*, I entreated Major Rooke to look a little more narrowly into this point; and ventured to prophesy that, on searching further into this particular spot, which wore the name of Pleasley Wood, he would not only find *that* to be a Roman station, but would probably from thence be able to trace a connected chain of them through the country. The time and the season not allowing of it *then*, he promised to do so as he had leisure and opportunity; and the result of his labours is contained in the treatise herewith enclosed. I hope I shall be forgiven if I take this opportunity, fortified by this experiment of the truth of my ideas on the subject, humbly to submit it to the Society whether they would not think it advisable to direct some encouragement should be given to an investigation of all the Roman roads, camps and stations throughout the kingdom, county by county, for the purpose of ascertaining the connected military system and principles on which they were formed; which may lead to a curious discovery of the extent and situation of the many Roman towns, camps and villas which must have existed in this country during the period of four hundred years for which Britain was a very distinguished member of the great Roman Empire. Such investigation, gradually but regularly pursued, would neither be expensive nor laborious, there being very little doubt but that there are ingenious persons in every county, who, on such a wish being properly communicated to them by the Society, would readily second those wishes, and, with very little assistance in having plans or drawings made by

order of the Society, where the accounts transmitted might appear to justify it, produce in time a very complete account and system of these military Roman remains, as well as of other *municipia*, and perhaps *baths* and other vestiges of Roman magnificence. I beg pardon for the liberty I have taken of suggesting thus much, and for detaining you so long upon this subject; but I thought the explanation necessary to elucidate the occasion of the treatise transmitted from Major Rooke, and I also thought the subject not unworthy of the attention of the Society. It will give both Major Rooke and me great pleasure if they should be of the same opinion, or if they should think what has been offered in any degree deserving their notice. I am, with regard, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant, GEO. YONGE."

This communication to the Society of Antiquaries is dated "Stratford Place, May 7, 1788." After reading it, we can readily understand why the first organizer and Governor of Upper Canada, General Simcoe, should have attached the name of Sir George Yonge to the great military road cast up and hewn out by him, in 1793, through the primitive woods from Lake Ontario to Lake Huron. It was not simply as a compliment to the Secretary at War of the day, but it was also something to give special gratification to a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries who had made himself, by his observation and research, an authority on Roman roads. The application, too, of the term "Street" to the two great original highways opened up within the new province, and intersecting each other at right angles in the heart of its capital town, is thus explained. It was to follow the example of the old Roman colonizers, who wisely made it an essential part of their system to establish at once, throughout the length and breadth of each region occupied, a public way, well constructed, and usually paved with blocks of stone—hence called a *via strata*—vernacularized into *Street* by our Saxon forefathers. Thus we have Watling Street, a Roman road leading from Richborough to Canterbury and London; Ickneild Street, a Roman road leading from Tynemouth through York, Derby, and Birmingham to St. David's; Ermin Street, leading from Southampton, also to St. David's. Whilst Ardwick-le-Street in Yorkshire, Chester-le-Street in Durham, Stretton, Stratton, Streatham, and several places called Stretford and Stratford, all imply that they were each of them situated on the line of some old Roman street or road.

I observe among the "Traditions and Recollections" of Polwhele, the historian of Cornwall, a reference to the literary tastes of Sir George Yonge. Polwhele had communicated to him, for his judgment, a certain composition, intended apparently to compete for some distinction at the University of Oxford. Sir George replies as follows: "I very much like your poetical ideas, and think they will do for Oxford very well. The ode might be spoken (Sir George suggests) by a bard from the top of the Promontory of Hercules," [*i.e.*, Hartland Point, North Devon, jutting out into the Bristol Channel.] And in another place in the same work of Polwhele's we meet with an allusion to Sir George Yonge as an encourager of the author in his labours in relation to the History of Cornwall, notwithstanding the adverse criticism of a few. Thus:

"Though Acland, scowling midst his scatter'd plans,
 May spots innumerable in my book espy;
 Though Incedon each fact severely scans,
 In pedigrees, perhaps, more sage than I;
 Yet whilst a Downman wishes to peruse
 (His mind the seat of candour!) all I write;
 Whilst YONGE still prompts me to enlarge my views,
 And bids me soar with no ignoble flight;
 Whilst Whitaker approves my various scheme,
 And wakes my ardour in each bold essay;
 With friendly light illumining the theme
 Of Roman relics sunk in dim decay;
 Shall not the Spirit of Research proceed,
 And, spurning Envy, grasp the historic meed?"

(Downman was a literary contemporary of note, a clerical M.D. Whitaker was the Rev. John Whitaker, author of the History of Manchester, of the Life of St. Neot, the eldest brother of King Alfred, and other works.)

Sir George Yonge died, as I have already mentioned, in 1812. Sir W. Courthope observes, in his "Synopsis of the Extinct Baronetage of England," that he died *sine prole*, so that the baronetcy became extinct, after existing since 1661, the time of the Restoration. It is to be regretted that we have to state that towards the close of his life Sir George became involved in difficulties from having invested largely in wool-mills, in the neighbourhood of Honiton, the borough which he, as his father before him, had represented in Parliament for many years. And Mr. George Roberts, of Lyme Regis, in his

"Introduction to the Diary of Walter Yonge, Esq.," published in 1848 by the Camden Society, says of Sir George that he was once heard to say that he began life with £80,000 of family property, that he received £80,000 with his wife, and that he had been paid £80,000 by the Government for his public services, but that Honiton had swallowed it all. All had been sunk in the "wool-mills" at or near Honiton. (The Walter Yonge just mentioned was an ancestor of Sir George's, who likewise represented the Borough of Honiton in Parliament.) Sir George Yonge was buried at Colyton in Devon, where his coffin-plate is preserved. But it appears that no tablet to his memory has been erected. Doubtless a great error of judgment was committed when Sir George ventured to meddle with "wool-mills;" ventured to engage in speculations connected with the manufacture by machinery of serges and broad-cloths. Actuated, it may be, by public spirit in entering on such undertakings, and also by a desire, perhaps, to become rapidly rich, yet wholly without practical experience in the conduct of such enterprises, he became, it is likely, the dupe of sharpers. The broad pleasant acres of Devon, to which he and his fathers had been wont to trust for comfortable revenue, slipped away out of his hands, and like Antæus when lifted off from the earth, the country gentleman, uprooted from the land, soon found his power and influence gone. Although many bearing his family name, more or less nearly connected with him by blood, have since become distinguished in the world of letters and scholarship, we do not, after him, observe any one of his name going up to the House of Commons from Devon, and serving the State as Minister of the Crown.

Besides Yonge Street, we have in Ontario another memorial of Sir George Yonge, in the name of the township of Puslinch, in the county of Wellington, that being the name of a well-known family seat of the Yonges near Yealmton, in Devonshire; for although the subdivision of the wide-spread sept of the Yonges to which Sir George Yonge belonged, was known strictly as the Yonges of Colyton, yet it is to be observed that Burke, in his *Landed Gentry*, gives his notice of the Yonges of Colyton under the more comprehensive head of the Yonges of PUSLINCH.

I now proceed with my memoir of the other personage whose life and career I desire to recall, viz., Henry Dundas.

e
t
s
l
e



HENRY DUNDAS, FIRST VISCOUNT MELVILLE. (1740—1811).

AFTER WHOM DUNDAS STREET, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, WAS NAMED.

II.—HENRY DUNDAS, FIRST VISCOUNT MELVILLE.

The engraved portrait which I have of the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, is from a painting by the distinguished Scottish artist, Sir Henry Raeburn, R.A. It represents him in his ermined robes as a member of the House of Peers; for our Henry Dundas became finally a Viscount—Viscount Melville. He is standing at a table and speaking. His left hand rests lightly on papers before him. His right arm is sharply bent. The hand, planted on the hip, rather awkwardly draws back a portion of the robe, displaying its interior silken lining. He wears a curled and powdered wig of the time of George III. The oval, smooth-shaven countenance is not very remarkable; but some dignity is thrown into it by Raeburn's art, which, nevertheless, has failed to divest it of an expression of self-consciousness. The brows are slightly knitted; the eyes look out over the head of the spectator, and the lips are compressed. The nose is good. Below is a *fac simile* autograph signature, "MELVILLE."

Henry Dundas was, as it were, an hereditary Scottish juris-consult. His father and grandfather had been judges of the Scottish bench. His father was Lord President of the Court of Session, sitting by the title of Lord Arniston. His brother Robert also held the same high legal office, and assumed the same title, which was derived from an estate named Arniston. The Dundasses of Arniston were descended from George Dundas of Dundas, sixteenth in descent from the Dunbars, Earls of March. Henry Dundas was bred to the bar, and became a member of the faculty of advocates in 1763. Though of high Scottish rank, the family fortune by no means rendered him affluent. It is said "that when the young Henry established himself in his chambers in the Fleshmarket Close, in Edinburgh, he had, after paying his fees and other expenses connected with admission to the bar, exactly £60 remaining in his purse as capital, so far as cash was concerned, wherewith to make a start in the world. But his solid and well-trained abilities stood him in excellent stead. They soon began to tell. He was appointed successively assessor of the magistrates of Edinburgh, depute-advocate, *i.e.* deputy to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, for public prosecutions, and Solicitor-General for Scotland. Boswell, in his Life of Johnson, thus speaks of the pleading of Dundas in the case of Joseph Knight, a negro slave from the West Indies, who claimed his freedom in Scotland: "I cannot too highly praise the

speech which Mr. Henry Dundas contributed to the cause of the sooty stranger. On this occasion he impressed me, and I believe all his audience, with such feelings as were produced by some of the most eminent orators of antiquity." Boswell, quite gratuitously, indulges in a reference to the accent of his fellow-countryman. "Mr Dundas's Scottish accent, which," he observes, "has been so often in vain obtruded as an objection to his powerful abilities in Parliament, was no disadvantage to him in his own country." And again, in another place, Boswell goes out of his way to allude in coarser terms to the same quite natural accident of Dundas's oratory. The truth was, Boswell had been trying to school his own tongue in southern ways, and piqued himself on his supposed superior success in that regard. "A small intermixture," he says, "of provincial peculiarities may, perhaps, have an agreeable effect, as the notes of different birds concur in the harmony of the grove, and please more than if they were all exactly alike. I could name some gentlemen of Ireland," he continues, "to whom a slight proportion of the accent and recitative of that country is an advantage. The same observation will apply to the gentlemen of Scotland. I do not mean," he then adds, "that we should speak as broad as a certain prosperous member of Parliament from that country; though it has been well observed that it has been of no small use to him, as it rouses the attention of the House by its uncommonness, and is equal to tropes and figures in a good English speaker."

The "prosperous member of Parliament" was Dundas, who was returned member for Edinburgh in 1774. He at once took a leading part in the proceedings of the House. "As a public speaker," we are told, "he was clear, acute and argumentative, with the manner of one thoroughly master of his subject, and desirous to convince the understanding without the aid of the ornamental parts of oratory, which he seemed in some sort to despise." He supported the administration of Lord North, and voted for the prosecution of the war against the American colonies. In 1775 he was appointed Lord Advocate for Scotland and Keeper of the King's Signet for Scotland. The Lord Advocate of Scotland, we should observe by the way, holds the highest political office in Scotland, and he is always expected to have a seat in Parliament, where he discharges something resembling the duties of Secretary of State for that quarter of the kingdom. In those days, all the patronage of the crown in Scotland was in his hands.

Lord Cockburn, in the "Memorials of His Times," writing from the Whig point of view, speaks of Dundas as absolute Dictator of Scotland, as Proconsul, as Harry the Ninth. "The suppression of independent talent and of ambition," he says, "was the tendency of the times. Every Tory principle being absorbed in the horror of innovation, and that party casting all its cares upon Henry Dundas, no one could, without renouncing all his hopes, commit the treason of dreaming an independent thought. There was little genuine attraction for real talent, knowledge or eloquence on that side, because these qualities can seldom exist in combination with abject submission. And indeed," he then candidly adds, "there was not much attraction for them among the senior and dominant Whigs, among whom there was a corresponding loyalty to the Earl of Lauderdale." And again, Lord Cockburn writes: "In addition to all the ordinary sources of government influence, Henry Dundas, an Edinburgh man, and well calculated by talent and manners to make despotism popular, was the absolute dictator of Scotland, and had the means of rewarding submission, and of suppressing opposition, beyond what was ever exercised in modern times by one person in any portion of the empire." "A country gentleman," he says, "with any public principle except devotion to Henry Dundas, was viewed as a wonder, or rather as a monster. This was the creed also of all our merchants, all our removable office holders, and all our public corporations."

When Lord North's administration at length fell, and that of Lord Rockingham came into power, Henry Dundas still retained the office of Lord Advocate of Scotland; and when Lord Rockingham died, and Lord Shelburne succeeded, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy; but on the formation of the Coalition Ministry very soon after, he resigned, and became Pitt's right-hand man in the Opposition. Lord North, the head of the Coalition, resigned on the rejection of his India Bill by the Lords; when Pitt became premier, with Dundas as Treasurer of the Navy. Dundas materially assisted Pitt in the elaboration of the new India Bill, which passed, and under the arrangements of which he became President of the Board of Control; and he fully believed, as he expressed himself to the House, that the new measure would be a means of prodigiously lightening, if it did not finally extinguish, the national debt, so large would be the surplus revenue accruing in future from India.

As Treasurer of the Navy, Dundas was the originator of many beneficial reforms in the navy. For several special benefits accruing from his enactments to the common sailors, he was long spoken of amongst them as "the sailors' friend."

By a kind of irony of events, a regulation introduced by him in the Navy Department was made use of, at a subsequent date, to set up a series of charges against himself. The salary of the Treasurer of the Navy had hitherto been £2,000; but perquisites and the command of the public money set apart for navy purposes, added greatly to the emoluments. To prevent the risk, profusion and irregularity inseparable from such a system, Dundas' bill fixed the salary at £4,000, and prohibited the treasurer from making any private or individual use of the public money. How this salutary provision was brought to bear against himself by his political opponents at a subsequent period, will be presently seen. Dundas became also, under Pitt, Secretary of the Home Department and Secretary at War. He was likewise sworn of the Privy Council. As Secretary of the Home Department, in view of the expected invasion from France, he promoted the formation of the fencible regiments, the supplementary militia, the volunteer corps, and the provisional cavalry. Due to him was the whole of that domestic force which, during the war consequent on the French Revolution, was raised and kept in readiness, as a defence at once against foreign invasion and internal disturbance.

I am enabled to give a specimen-dispatch of Mr. Dundas's, as Secretary at War, transcribing from the original, wholly in his own handwriting. It is addressed to the Governor of the Island of Jersey, General Hall, during the troublous times of the Revolution in France. The island, it seems, had been made a convenience of by the French Royalists and by some scoundrels engaged in the manufacture and circulation of forged assignats—French paper currency of the day. The Secretary at War thus addresses General Hall on the subject, leaving us under the impression that due vigilance had not been used by the Governor, who, it appears, is about to be relieved. It is dated "Horse Guards, 26th October, 1794," and marked "secret:" "SIR,—Some unpleasant occurrences which have lately happened on that part of the coast of Brittany on which persons sent from Jersey have been landed, with a view of establishing a communication with the Royalists in the interior of France, render it absolutely necessary that you should not permit or authorize any person whatever to

embark from Jersey with a design of proceeding to France, and particularly to that part of the coast which I have described, unless you shall hereafter receive from me directions contrary to those of this dispatch, to which, in the present state of affairs, I must request you will pay immediate and particular attention. One reason in particular which induces me to urge this precaution is that I have reason to believe an intercourse has lately been established between Jersey and the coast for the sale and distribution of forged assignats. The parties concerned in this speculation will of course make every exertion to prevent its failure, and it will therefore be necessary that any person supposed to have taken a share in it should be carefully watched, and it is of the greatest importance, particularly at the present moment, that no communication should be permitted with the coast, except by the boats which Capt. D'Auvergne may think proper to detach with such persons as he may select for the service, which requires the greatest secrecy and caution. It is principally with a view of securing these points—absolutely necessary in a communication of this nature—that I have entrusted the management of it to Capt. D'Auvergne exclusively, who, by his situation on board a ship, can execute my directions without incurring any risk of their being divulged, which, whatever precaution may be taken, they would frequently be if the same measures were carried on from the Island. I understand that you have received permission to return to England as soon as you can be relieved in the command of His Majesty's Forces in Jersey. In the meantime, I rely with the fullest confidence in your zeal and attention in the discharge of this important trust, and I can assure you that you will find Capt. D'Auvergne ready to concert with you, whatever measures may be thought most expedient for the safety and defence of the Island, inasmuch as it depends on the naval force under his command. I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant, HENRY DUNDAS. Major-General Hall, &c."

In the debates on the Bill for the division of the Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, Mr. Dundas's name appears several times; and in the Simcoe correspondence preserved at Ottawa are several official communications addressed to and received from him. I transcribe a sentence or two from those in which the project of a street or military road is spoken of, viz., that to which by way of compliment the Governor attached the name of Dundas. In 1793, he writes: "I have directed the surveyor early in the next spring

to ascertain the precise distance of the several routes which I have done myself the honour of detailing to you, and hope to complete the military street or road the ensuing autumn." And in 1794, he reports: "Dundas Street, the road proposed from Burlington Bay to the River Thames, half of which is completed, will connect by an internal communication the Detroit and the settlements at Niagara. It is intended to be extended northerly to York by the troops, and in process of time by the respective settlers to Kingston and Montreal."

At the present time, I believe, the practice has become somewhat obsolete of applying the name *Dundas Street* to the whole of the long highway originally so called, extending from Detroit to the Point au Baudet. A portion of it immediately west of Toronto, may be spoken of as the Dundas road; and the prevalent impression may be that the name denotes simply the route which leads to the town of Dundas. But this, of course, would be quite a mistaken idea to adopt. On the old manuscript maps, contemporary with the first organization of the country, long before the town of Dundas existed, the route from the Western to the Eastern limit of Upper Canada was marked *Dundas Street* throughout its whole length. And thus we have it still laid down in the excellent and interesting map of Canada given in the handsome, large General Atlas published in Edinburgh, by John Thomson, in 1817, constructed from authentic sources, and dedicated to Alexander Keith, of Dunottar and Ravelston. And at the end of the first Gazetteer of Upper Canada, published in London in 1799, we have the following postscript which, while serving to shew that the whole of the highway from the west to the east was denominated *Dundas Street*, will also help us to realize the stern conditions in respect of means of inter-communication and locomotion under which our patient fathers first began to shape out and mould for us the pleasant rural scenes, the amenities and comforts of civilized life, everywhere now to be beheld and enjoyed amongst us. This postscript, dated 1799, reads thus: "Since the foregoing notes have come from the press, the editor is informed that the Dundas Street has been considerably improved between the head of Lake Ontario and York; and that the Government has contracted for the opening of it from that city to the head of the Bay of Quinté, a distance of 120 miles, as well as for causewaying of the swamps and erecting the necessary bridges, so that it is hoped, in a short time, there will be a tolerable road from Quebec

to the capital of the Upper Province." It may excite a smile to find York styled a "city" in 1799: but the terms of the passage shew, as I have said, that the whole of the highway from the west to the east, passing through York, was regarded as Dundas Street. *That*, in fact, was the name long borne by our present Queen Street here in Toronto; and Queen Street, as everyone knows, is in a right line with the "Kingston road," which was, as we see, simply the prolongation of Dundas Street, the great provincial highway, or Grand Trunk, as it were, of the day, leading to Montreal and Quebec. It is scarcely necessary to observe that the distinction and celebrity of both Dundas Street and Yonge Street, taken in the original extended meaning of their names, have been eclipsed in these days by the greater glory and the greater convenience of the Grand Trunk, Great Western, and Northern Railways of Canada. Highways, like men, have their vicissitudes.

Hinc, apicem, rapax

Fortuna, cum stridore acuto,

Sustulit; hic possuisse gaudet.

Travel and traffic having been in this way largely turned aside from our two primitive historic "streets," they have both of them dropped, in some measure, out of the knowledge of tourists, and even out of the knowledge of many among the younger portion of our settled inhabitants.

Besides Dundas Street, another permanent memorial of Henry Dundas was established in Canada, in the name of a county toward the eastern limit of the present Province of Ontario. The County of Dundas is united with the Counties of Stormont and Glengarry, with the well-known borough of Cornwall for county-town conjointly.*

But to return:—In 1801 Pitt resigned the premiership, not being able to induce the King to assent to the enfranchisement of the Roman Catholics, a measure which had been virtually promised when the legislative union of Ireland and Great Britain was effected. Dundas retired with him, but was raised to the peerage in the following year, by the Addington Ministry, as Viscount Melville, of Melville Castle, in the County of Edinburgh, and Baron Dunira, of

* For this portion of Canada a local historian has happily appeared. Mr. James Croill, of Archerfield, in 1861, published at Montreal an elaborate and interesting volume of 350 pages, bearing the following title: "Dundas, or a Sketch of Canadian History, and more particularly of the County of Dundas, one of the earliest settled counties in Upper Canada." It is dedicated to "the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists residing in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, formerly the Old Eastern District."

Dunira, in the County of Perth. In these titles the name of "Dundas," in which we are chiefly concerned, henceforward merges and is lost. On his elevation to the peerage, the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh presented him with an address, in which they expressed their attachment to him and his family, their admiration of his talents, and their gratitude for the many services he had rendered to the country, and in particular to the City of Edinburgh. The new lord appeared in person before the Council and delivered a speech in reply, in which, among other topics, he dwelt on the practical blessings of the British Constitution, of which his own career, he said, afforded a striking example. "While we therefore continue to resist the fanatic principles of ideal equality, incompatible with the government of the world and the just order of human society, let us, he exhorted his hearers, rejoice in those substantial blessings, the results of real freedom and equal laws, which open to the fair ambition of every British subject the means of pursuing with success those objects of honour, and those situations of power—the attainment of which, in other countries, rests solely upon a partial participation of personal favour, and the enjoyment of which rests upon the precarious tenure of arbitrary power." While the civic authorities of Edinburgh, in the presence of Viscount Melville, are yet before our mind's eye, it will perhaps be of some interest to hear what Lord Cockburn, a contemporary, says of them, and their place of meeting, in the "Memorials of His Times." We must of course make allowance for the Whiggish bias of his pen. "In this Pandemonium," he says [namely, in what he had just before described as "a low, dark, blackguard-looking room, entering from a covered passage which connected the north-west corner of the Parliament Square with the Lawnmarket"], "sat the Town Council of Edinburgh, omnipotent, corrupt, impenetrable. Nothing was beyond its grasp; no variety of opinion disturbed its unanimity, for the pleasure of Dundas was the sole rule for every one of them. Reporters, the fruit of free discussion, did not exist; and though they had existed, would not have dared to disclose the proceedings. Silent, powerful, submissive, mysterious and irresponsible, they might have been sitting in Venice. Certain of the support of the Proconsul, whom they no more thought of thwarting than of thwarting Providence, timidity was not one of their vices." A curious picture, surely; of which, let us be thankful, no exact counterpart can be found in any city or town in the Empire at the present day.

In 1804, when, on the resignation of the Addington Ministry, Pitt returned to power, Viscount Melville became First Lord of the Admiralty; and now it was that the tide of his good fortune began to ebb. He was, all of a sudden, called to account by the House of Commons for certain malpractices indulged in some twenty years previously by one Alexander Trotter, the Paymaster of the Navy when Melville was Treasurer of the Navy in 1786. The charge came up indirectly in connection with another inquiry, and the occasion was greedily seized by the Whig Opposition as one that might perhaps bring on the downfall of Pitt's administration. On the motion of Mr. Whitbread, a resolution was carried, only, however, by the casting vote of the Speaker, in a house of 433, asserting that "large sums of money had been, under pretence of naval services, drawn from the bank by Alexander Trotter, Paymaster of the Navy, and by him invested in exchequer and navy bills, lent upon the security of stock, employed in discounting private bills, and used in various ways for the purposes of private emolument; and that in so doing he acted with the knowledge and consent of Lord Melville, to whom he was at the same time private agent; and therefore that Lord Melville has been guilty of gross violation of the law, and a high breach of duty." Before the resolution was put, Pitt and Canning had both spoken eloquently and powerfully in defence of their colleague. On the day after the condemnatory vote, Pitt announced to the House that Lord Melville had resigned his office of First Lord of the Admiralty; and three weeks later Pitt intimated that, in deference to the prevailing sense of the House, the King had been advised by his ministers to erase Lord Melville's name from the list of Privy Councillors, and that accordingly it would be done. Four weeks later, Melville asked to be heard before the House of Commons, where he appeared in person, and offered reasonable explanation of his conduct as Treasurer of the Navy twenty years before. The Opposition was implacable, however, and, at the instigation of Whitbread, a vote was carried to institute formal impeachment; and in due time, Westminster Hall witnessed a scene somewhat similar to that which had been enacted within about twenty years before, at the trial of the other great Proconsul, Warren Hastings.

The process lasted from April 29 to June 12 (1806), when the accused peer was acquitted of malversation personally, but judged guilty of negligence of duty in respect of his agent. There can be no question but that Melville's alleged offence was greatly magnified

by political rancour and sectional prejudice, and that every nerve was strained by the party out of power at the time to make it appear that he had clearly transgressed the law of purity imposed by himself on the Navy Department in 1785. "The charges against Lord Melville were groundless," Lord Cockburn says in his "Memorials," "and were at last reduced to insignificancy. To those who knew the pecuniary indifference of the man, and who think of the comparative facility of peculation in those irregular days, the mere smallness of the sums which he was said to have improperly touched, is of itself almost sufficient evidence of his innocence. If he had been disposed to speculate, it would not have been for farthings."

Lord Cockburn then goes on to remark on the benefits which accrued, especially in Scotland, to the Whigs, by the impeachment, notwithstanding its failure. "It did more," he says, "to emancipate Scotland than even the exclusion of Melville's party from power. His political omnipotence, which without any illiberality on his part, implied, at that time, the suppression of all opposition, had lasted so long and so steadily, that in despair the discontented concurred in the general impression that, happen what might, Harry the Ninth would always be uppermost. When he was not only deprived of power, but subjected to trial, people could scarcely believe their senses. The triumphant anticipations of his enemies, many of whom exulted with premature and disgusting joy over the ruin of the man, were as absurd as the rage of his friends, who railed, with vain malignity, at his accusers and the Constitution. Between the two, the progress of independence was materially advanced. A blow had been struck which, notwithstanding his acquittal, relaxed our local fetters. Our little great men felt the precariousness of their power; and even the mildest friends of improvement—those who, though opposed to him, deplored the fall of a distinguished countryman more than they valued any political benefit involved in his misfortune, were relieved by seeing that the mainspring of the Scotch pro-consular system was weakened."

A satirical poem of the day which I possess, entitled, "All the Talents," by Polypus, expresses the Tory feeling in regard to Melville and his chief accuser, Whitbread. It thus speaks:

"Could Whitbread catch a spark of Windham's fire,
To deeds more dang'rous Whitbread might aspire;
But as it stands, our brewer has not *voûé*
To lead the mob or to mislead the House.

See how the happy soul himself admires !
 A hazy vapour thro' his head expires ;
 His curls ambrosial, hop and poppy shade,
 Fit emblems of his talent and his trade.
 Slow yet not cautious ; cunning yet not wise ;
 We hate him first, then pity, then despise.

* * * * *

Puft with the Pride that loves her name in print,
 And knock-kneed Vanity with inward squint.
 Laborious, heavy, slow to catch a cause,
 Bills at long sight upon his wits he draws,
 And with a solemn smartness in his mien,
 Lights up his eyes and offers to look keen.
 But oh ! how dullness fell on all his face,
 When he saw Melville rescued from disgrace !
 Not more agape the stupid audience stared,
 When Kemble spoke of *Aitches* and a *Baird*.
 Cold from his cheek the crimson courage fled ;
 With jaw ajar, he looked as he were dead,
 As from the anatomist he just had run,
 Or was bound 'prentice to a skeleton.
 Then, seeing thro' the matter in a minute,
 Wished to high Heav'n he ne'er had meddled in it.
 Rough as his porter, bitter as his barm,
 He sacrificed his fame to Melville's harm,
 And gave more deep disgust, than if his vat
 Had curst our vision with a swimming rat.

The same satirist thus comments on the fact, that before proceeding to the impeachment in Westminster Hall, Melville's accusers had succeeded in having him pronounced guilty of the charges, and unworthy of being on the roll of the Privy Council :

"Justice, turned scholar, changed her vulgar plan,
 And, just like Hebrew, from the end began ;
First found the culprit guilty, tried him *next*,
 And from *Amen* preached backwards to the text.
 So crabs advance by retrograde degrees,
 And salmon drift, tail foremost, to the seas !
 To vex the Scotchman answered every end :
 Unhappy in his servant and his friend."

"To vex the Scotchman answered every end:" this line glances at a narrow and unworthy anti-Scottish prejudice which had been prevalent, more or less in England, ever since the days of the Scottish favourite, Lord Bute. A caricature of the day, by Sayer, represents a figure, made up of barrels and tubs, aiming a flail at a large thistle.

The thistle, of course, is Melville, and the figure, Whitbread, who, as we have had already intimated to us, was a brewer, a wealthy London brewer. Underneath are the following lines, to understand which we must be informed that Sansterre, the commandant of the National Guard who had presided at the recent execution of Louis XVI. in Paris, happened also to be a brewer. "Sansterre," we are told—

"Sansterre forsook his malt and grains,
To mash and batter nobles' brains,
By levelling rancour led:
Our Brewer quits brown stout and washy,
His malt, his mash-tub, and his quashea,
To mash a Thistle's head."

In Lockhart's Life of Scott is given a song, written by Sir Walter on the occasion of Lord Melville's acquittal. It was sung with great applause at a public dinner in Edinburgh, by Mr. James Ballantyne. Scott regarded the impeachment of his friend as a mere act of vindictiveness on the part of the Whigs. Of the eight stanzas of which this production consists, I quote one, wherein Pitt and Melville are named together, and an allusion occurs to the recent death of Pitt, who, it must be added, did not long survive the trouble which had befallen his faithful supporter, Melville. In fact, he died before the trial in Westminster Hall came on. The name Despard, which occurs near the close of the stanza, is that of an ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Despard, who endeavoured to create sedition among the soldiers and others in England in 1803. And the Arthur O'Connor mentioned just before, was a coadjutor of Lord Edward Fitz-Gerald, Napper Tandy, Addis Emmet, and other conspirators in Ireland, known as the United Irishmen, whose aim was to make Ireland a Republic like France in 1793. The word "reform," it should be observed, is used in an invidious sense. Thus the stanza reads:

"What were the Whigs doing, when, boldly pursuing,
PITT banished Rebellion, gave Treason a string?
Why they swore on their honour, for ARTHUR O'CONNOR,
And fought hard for DESPARD against country and king.
Well then we knew, boys,
PITT and MELVILLE were true boys,
And the tempest was raised by the sons of Reform.
Ah, woe!
Weep to his memory;
Low lies the pilot that weathered the storm."

"The Pilot that weathered the storm" is the echo of a phrase of Canning's, used by him as the title of some verses on Pitt, written in 1802.

Lockhart does not applaud the animus of Scott's song; and Sir Walter himself subsequently allowed the unwisdom of much of it.

In this song, too, occurred the expression—"Tally-ho! to the Fox!" which was interpreted by some to be an allusion to Fox, the great Whig rival of Pitt, who was known at the time to be prostrated by sickness—sickness likely to prove mortal, and which did prove mortal on the 6th of the following September. "If," says Lord Cockburn, "Scott really intended this as a shout of triumph over the expiring orator, it was an indecency which no fair license of party-zeal can palliate. But I am inclined to believe," Lord Cockburn continues, "that nothing was meant beyond one of the jocular and not unnatural exultations over the defeated leaders of the impeachment, of which the song is composed. There were some important persons, however," it is added, "whose good opinion, by this indiscretion, was lost to Scott forever."

On the death of Pitt, the coalition-ministry, known as "All the Talents," was formed, consisting of Grenville, Fox, Lord Howick, E. Skene; which was speedily followed by the Duke of Portland's ministry, comprising Canning, Castlereagh, Percival, Lord Eldon. Melville's name was replaced on the list of the Privy Council; and it was suspected by some that this was preparatory to acceptance of office. We have the Whig feeling on this point expressed in some stanzas which I quote from a satire, styled Melville's Mantle, put forth in reply to Canning's Elijah's Mantle, a piece in which Elijah rather strangely adumbrates the lately deceased Pitt:

"When by th' Almighty's dread command
Old Bute had left this injured land,
He long had set in flame,
His mantle crafty Jenky caught—
Dundas, with equal spirit fraught,
The Tories' hope became.

In these were qualities combined
Just suited to the royal mind—
The supple spirits here:
What sad reverse! that spirit reft,
No confidence, no hope was left—
The Whigs impeached the Peer!

Is there (since gone is that great band
 Who ruled with Freedom's liberal hand)
 'Mong those who power resume,
 One on whom public faith can rest—
 One fit to wear a Chatham's vest
 And cheer a nation's gloom?

Melville! to aid thy batter'd fame,
 Thy monarch's secret favour claim,
 His pulse at Windsor feel!
 A Privy Councillor you soar;
 God grant you may be nothing more,
 Or, farewell public weal!

* * * * *

Young Jenky, you've no cause to mourn
 Tho' Whigs your servile conduct scorn,
 Your Cinque Ports cannot fail:
 You thank your stars that Pitt's a corse,
 Nor care, tho' patriots till they're hoarse
 At you and Melville rail."

Some appended notes explain that the "Crafty Jenky," of the first stanza, meant Sir Charles Jenkinson, the first Lord Liverpool, "Lord Bute's scrub," as the annotator speaks; whilst the "Young Jenky" of the last stanza is his son, who, on the death of Pitt, became his successor as Warden of the Cinque Ports, thus following his father in the road of place and preferment—"plus passibus æquis," the annotator observes. Another title of the Earls of Liverpool was Baron Hawkesbury; whence our Hawkesbury on the Ottawa.

But after the death of Pitt, Melville was little inclined to enter again on public life. He henceforward remained chiefly in retirement, taking part only occasionally in the debates of the House of Lords.

Lockhart informs us that Lord Melville, after his fall, used to be a constant visitor at Sir Walter's house, in Castle Street, in Edinburgh, and that "the old statesman entered with such simple-heartedness into all the ways of the happy circle, that it came to be an established rule for the children *to sit up to supper* whenever Lord Melville dined there." "In private life," we are told by Robert Chambers, "his manner was winning, agreeable and friendly, with great frankness and ease. He was convivial in his habits, and, in the intercourse of private life, he never permitted party distinctions to interfere with the cordiality and kindness of his disposition; hence it has been truly said," Robert Chambers remarks, "that Whig and Tory agreed in

loving him; and that he was always happy to oblige those in common with whom he had any recollections of good-humoured festivity."

I have said that the tide of Lord Melville's good fortune began to ebb when he received the appointment of First Lord of the Admiralty, in 1804. But previous to that date, his bed had not always been one of roses. "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;" and the sovereign's lot in this respect is often shared by his servant, the statesman. To this effect we have in Sir John Sinclair's Memoirs a remark of Lord Melville's noted. Sir John had waited on him on the new year's morn of 1796, to wish him a happy new year. Melville's reply was: "I hope this year will be happier than the last; for I can scarcely recollect spending one happy day in the whole of it." This confession, coming from one whose whole life had hitherto been a series of triumphs, and who appeared to stand secure on the pinnacle of political ambition, Sir John Sinclair used often to dwell upon as exemplifying the vanity of human wishes.

Lord Melville's death was a sudden one. He had come into Edinburgh from his country residence, to attend the funeral of President Blair, an old friend, when a fit of apoplexy seized him. He had retired to rest in his usual health, but was found dead in his bed next morning. These two early-attached, illustrious friends were thus lying, both suddenly dead, with but a wall between them. Their houses on the north-east side of George Square, Edinburgh, were next each other.

That Lord Melville's end was quite unexpected by himself at the moment, is shewn by a curious circumstance. A letter was discovered lying on the writing table in the room where he was found dead, containing, by anticipation, an account of his emotions at the funeral of President Blair. It was addressed, ready to be sent off, to a member of the Government, with a view to obtain some public provision for Blair's family; and the writer had not reckoned on the possibility of his own demise before his friend's funeral took place. "Such things are always awkward when detected," Lord Cockburn observes, "especially when done by a skilful politician. Nevertheless, an honest and true man might do this," Lord Cockburn observes; "it is easy to anticipate one's feelings at a friend's burial, and putting the description into the form of having returned from it, is mere rhetoric."

Sir Walter Scott speaks with great feeling of the decease of Lord Melville. Thus he writes in a letter to Mr. Morritt: "Poor dear

Lord Melville! 'Tis vain to name him whom we mourn in vain!" Almost the last time I saw him he was talking of you in the highest terms of regard, and expressing great hopes of again seeing you at Dunira this summer, where I proposed to attend you. 'Hei mihi! Quid *hei mihi?* Humana perpessi sumus!" His loss will be long and severely felt here; and envy is already paying her cold tribute of applause to the worth which it maligned while it walked upon earth."

Lord Melville was buried without pomp at Lasswade, near Edinburgh, in which parish Melville Castle is situated.

Deriving from his parents a solid understanding and a sound constitution, he, as we have seen, learned early, as is the custom of Scotland, to put them both to their proper use. Starting, as narrated, with little other capital but these endowments and this training, he laid the foundation of his house with wisdom, and the superstructure upreared thereupon by him has accordingly endured. The title of Lord Melville, of which he was the originator, has come down with distinction to the present time; and his family, immediate and collateral, continues to send forth from time to time men able and willing to do good service, civil and military, to the commonwealth. A column and a statue preserve the memory of the first Lord Melville in Edinburgh. The former, begun during his lifetime, stands in St. Andrew's Square. Its proportions are those of the column of Trajan, in Rome; but instead of being covered with a spiral series of sculptures, like Trajan's pillar, it is fluted. It cost £8,000. The height is 136 feet; the figure at the top, added at a later period, is 14 feet; the altitude of the whole is thus 150 feet.

His statue in white marble stands at the north end of the Great Hall of the Parliament House in Edinburgh. It is by Chantry; and Lord Cockburn's caustic remark is: "It is, perhaps, Chantry's worst. The column," he adds, "has received and deserves praise."

It is a curious circumstance to take note of, that on the column in St. Andrew's Square, to this day, there is no inscription. Pope's couplet on the so-called Monument in London, everyone remembers:

"Where London's column, pointing at the skies,
Like a tall bully, lifts the head and lies."

Some such biting satire as this, it is certain, would quickly have shaped itself in men's mouths, had the exaggerated language appeared on the Edinburgh pillar, which the worshippers of Melville would

inevitably have desired to see placed there at the moment of their party's triumph, when such a conspicuous trophy was suggested. Wiser men may have counselled phrases more modest, which the stubborn extremists would not away with; and thus, between the two, it may have happened that no inscription at all was carved. Better, perhaps, this—than that at an after-period an erasure should be demanded, and procured, on the plea of untruth, as has actually come to pass in the case of the Monument in London, since the days when Pope wrote.

Here I close my memoirs of the two eminent men, whose respective careers I have desired to recall to your recollection.

Whenever next we cross and re-cross the route of our now classic and even ancient Yonge Street, as we travel to Orillia or Gravenhurst, by the Northern Railway of Canada; or whenever, borne swiftly along on the track of the Great Western, we look down from the cars upon the thriving town and picturesque valley of Dundas, it will, in both cases, invest the scene with fitting associations, and add interest to the journey, if we recall to our minds, as we proceed on our way, the fates and fortunes of the two personages from whom the localities on which we gaze derive their names—the frank, genial-looking, many-sided Devonshire man, Sir George Yonge, Secretary at War in 1782; and the cool, shrewd-featured, able and dextrous Scot, Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty in 1805.



*Dundas is named, not politely, by Rob Burns
in his Earnest Cry and Prayer to the Scotch
Representatives. stanza 13.
Again in a "Fragment" stanza 8.*